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Message Text

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PAGE 01 DOHA 00176 120855Z

42 R
ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /010 W
---------- 120820
R 120545Z FEB 75
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0177
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
RUQKSBH /AMEMBASSY MANAMA 0053
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0176

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS : AFSP EFIN
SUBJECT : PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH REGIONAL FINANCE OFFICER POSITION

REF: STATE 029524

1. EMBASSY DOHA COULD USE SERVICES OF A REGIONAL FINANCIAL OFFICER AS DESCRIBED IN REFTEL. OUR INEXPERIENCED STAFF HAS BEEN UNABLE AS YET TO ACHIEVE INFORMATIONAL AND POLICY GOALS WITH RESPECT TO MOVEMENT OF GOQ'S OIL-GENERATED CAPITAL. WE ARE LEARNING, BUT SUPPORT OF EXPERT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO OUR REPORTING AND ANALYSIS IN THIS AREA WHICH IS OF KEY IMPORTANCE.

2. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, MANY QUESTIONS THAT ARISE IN CONNECTION WITH ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH A POSITION. IT APPEARS THAT PROPOSED REGIONAL FINANCIAL OFFICER WILL HAVE LARGE BEAT TO COVER. WILL SUCH OFFICER BE ABLE TO SPEND SUFFICIENT TIME IN EACH POST TO GIVE IT MEANINGFUL SUPPORT AND TO ESTABLISH SUFFICIENT RAPPORT WITH
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LOCAL OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH THIS SUBJECT? GOQ REGARDS ITS IN-

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VESTMENT POLICY AS A MOST SENSITIVE STATE SECRET AND OCCASIONAL VISITOR WILL NOT GET VERY FAR EITHER IN INFORMATIONAL OR GUIDANCE FIELDS. AS REGARDS VENUE OF POSITION, WE WOULD SELFISHLY SAY THE CLOSER THE BETTER, E.E. SOMEWHERE IN THE GULF, ALTHOUGH COMMUNICATIONS FROM BEIRUT ARE EXCELLENT.

3. DOHA HAS HAD CONSIDERABLE PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH BEING SERVICED BY REGIONAL OFFICERS. BEFORE EXPANSION OF POST, ADMINISTRATIVE, ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL AND USIS FUNCTIONS WERE HANDLED FROM KUWAIT. USIS STILL IS. SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER THESE ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN, ON BALANCE, SATISFACTORY BUT NOT OPTIMUM, BUT THIS IS IN THE NATURE OF SUCH A RELATIONSHIP.

4. IN SUM, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO HAVE A REGIONAL FINANCIAL OFFICER AVAILABLE TO US SINCE ANY SUPPORT HE MAY PROVIDE WILL ENHANCE DOHA'S EFFECTIVENESS IN THIS AREA.
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